

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of August 18, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this amendment claims 1-3 have been amended and claims 4-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The entire specification has been reviewed and revised. Due to the number of revisions, the amendments to the specification have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification and abstract indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by these revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failure to define the term "axial direction." Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection, now providing "in a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of the cylinder." Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103

Currently, claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Keiichi (JP 3380611) in view of Katagiri (US 20020073754).

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection set forth in the previous Office Action. Keiichi in view of Katagiri fails to disclose or render obvious at least "a rear rotor...turnably placed in the cylinder." The cylinder and rotor of Keiichi appear to be integrally formed, such that no portion of the rotor is placed in the cylinder. The cylinder and rotor of Katagiri are not integral, but still no portion of the rotor is placed in the cylinder. Moreover, Katagiri is cited for the alleged teaching of a "container portion," yet it is clear that the connecting member 19 of Keiichi would not be operable if placed in the container portion of Katagiri, as required by claim 1. Moreover, the driving member 18 of Keiichi, which connects

with the connecting member 19, would appear to be inoperable if combined with Katagiri because the driving member could not fit over the rotor and cylinder yet within the holder/main body. In summation, the combination of references proposed by the Examiner in the Office Action does not meet all the limitations of original claim 1 and also yields an inoperable device, thus the combination would not meet the functional limitations of the claims of the present application. In an effort to advance prosecution, and without agreeing to the propriety of the rejection, the claims have been amended to more clearly define the limitations not present in the prior art.

Amended claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Keiichi in view of Katagiri for the following reasons. Claim 1 requires a cylinder lock comprising, in part, a cylinder having an open end and a cut-out portion, a rear rotor disposed in the open end of the cylinder, and a connection member protruding into the cut-out portion of the cylinder connecting the rear rotor and the cylinder and operable to disconnect such that the cylinder and the rear rotor are disconnected. Claim 11 requires a cylinder lock comprising, in part, a connection member movable between a connected position in which the rear rotor and the cylinder are connected and a non-connected position in which the cylinder is movable relative to the rear rotor.

Neither Keiichi nor Katagiri, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or render obvious the claims. Keiichi discloses a cylinder and rotor which appear integral. The cylinder and rotor of Keiichi do not disconnect as required by claim 1, nor do they disconnect such that the cylinder is movable relative to the rear rotor as required by claim 11. Keiichi also does not disclose the movable connecting member connecting the cylinder to the rear rotor. Instead, Keiichi utilizes a driving member 18, as seen in Figures 4 and 5, which disconnects from the integral cylinder and rotor combination. Connecting member 19 is disposed in the rotor and never contacts cylinder 16, instead fitting into notch 30 in driving member 18. This driving member configuration is disadvantageously bigger and more complicated than the configuration of the present application. Katagiri does not disclose a rear rotor at least partially disposed in the cylinder as required by claims 1 and 11, nor does Katagiri disclose the movable connecting member connecting the cylinder to the rear rotor as required by claims 1 and 11. As mentioned above, Keiichi and Katagiri do not appear to be operable when combined, and even if operable would not meet the structural and functional limitations of claims 1 and 11. The cylinder lock of the present application provides a design which eliminates necessary components of the prior art,

thereby resulting in a more compact and reliable device which costs less to manufacture and assemble. It is thus submitted that the configuration of the instant application, as defined in claims 1 and 11, is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, and yields significant advantages over the prior art. Allowance is respectfully requested.

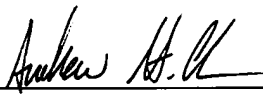
Claims 2-10 and 12-20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are thus allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, inasmuch as all of the outstanding issues have been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain after consideration of the within response, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience. If any fee beyond that submitted herewith, or extension of time is required to obtain entry of this Amendment, the undersigned hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant any necessary time extension and authorizes charging Deposit Account 23-0975 for any such fee not submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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